(b) if so, reasons for the inordinate delay; and

(c) the number of such projects and their period of delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main reasons for delay or in-completion of projects are;—

(i) Death or retirement of Principal Investigator.

(ii) Pre-occupation of Principal Investigators with other priority work.

(iii) Non-availability of supporting * project staff.

(iv) Practical difficulties in the field.

(c) Out of 73 projects in hand, the de lay in the timely completion ranges from 1.10 years in 35 projects.

**Steamer Service along Konkan coast**

4153. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for Government to withdraw the steamer service plying along the Konkan Coast during the last summer season;

(b) whether if is a fact that these steamers will be discontinued because they are likely to be scrapped; and

(c) if so, what alternative arrangements have been made by Government to solve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT); (a) The steamer service plying along the Konkan coast was withdrawn for sometime during the last summer season as the vessels were required for urgent use elsewhere.

(b) and (c) The vessels are old enough to be scrapped. The arrangements as existed during the last summer season can continue if the State Governments of Maharashtra and Goa agree to meet the operational losses for running the service as well as the costs of the Annual Passen. ger Survey needed to continue the old vessels in service.

**Introduction of new test books by NCERT**

4154. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BAN-SAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RE SOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NCERT have a plan to introduce new text books for some classes for the 1989-90 session;

(b) if so, for which classes these books are being issued and the number of titles to be so issued; and

(c) what is the stage of preparation and by when the new titles would be available in the open market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Revised text-books for classes V, VIII, X and XII are to be provided for the 1989-90 academic session. Out of these, 24 will be completely new textbooks,

(c) All ihe manuscripts are in the final stage of preparation and all these titles are expected to be available for the academic session 1989-90.

**Celebration of the International Literacy Year in 1990**

4155. SHRI PAWAN KUMAN BAN-SAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RE SOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special plan of action has been drawn up to celebrate the Inter, national Literacy Year in 1990- and

(b) if so, what are the details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND

CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI) (a) and (b) Steps are being taken to work, out a plan of action for the celebration of the International Literacy Year (ILY) in 1990. For this purpose a National Coordination Committee on International Literacy Year has been constituted. The Committee has already met once on 20th July, 1988.

**Whole salers of NCERT books**

4156. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RE SOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased lo state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NCERT issues its books to a few whole sale dealers only and not to the retail book sellers;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for creat ing such monopoly and what steps have been taken to ensure that the wholesale dealer$_s$ abide by the prescribed conditions; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to en courage educated unemployed youngsters to take up the retail sale of NCERT books by issuing the same to them directly, without bring wholesale dealers into the picture in the form of middlemen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI); (a) and (b) NCERT sells its publications in the Union Territory of Delhi through 14 Wholesale Distribution agents. The sale in the rest of the country is handled by eight Sales Emporia of the Publication Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting situated at New Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Patna, Lucknow, Hyderabad and Trivandrum. The Wholesale Distributors as well as the Publication Division sell these publications through retailers; sale and distribution of books through Wholesalers is an established practice in the book trade.

(c) No, Sir.

**Vacant posts of senior administrative officer in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan**

4157. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of post of Senior Administrative Officers, Kendriya Vidalaya Sangathan, New Delhi, lying vacant at pre sent;

(b) whether these are likely to be filled up, by departmental promotion or by direct recruitment; and

(c) if so,. by when it is propose to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) Nil.

*(a)* and (c) Do not arise.

**Literacy rate in the country**

4158. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state;

(a) what isf the present literacy rate in the country for the population as a whole, and separately for ma]es and females;

(b) whether the female literacy rate is still very low, particularly' in sorne States even after 40 years after independence; and

(c) what steps Lire being taken or proposed to be taken to reduce female illiteracy in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) & (b) A Statement showing the All India and State-wise literacy rate for male and female as per the 1981 Census is attached *(See* below).

(c) The following steps have been taken for improving the female literacy position in the country:

(i) Mobilisation of women adult learners for the Adult Education Centres in large number;